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GEORGE W. ELDER passenger accommodations blueprint, 1890 April 30

HDC 1300 SAFR 21359 SAFR-0001 / GOGA-0735 Library (Transfer Accession) VM 3835 D1 Pam DACS Reference Code: us - CSfMM - 21359

Name and Location of Repository

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Historic Documents Collection Fort Mason, Building E San Francisco, California, 94123

Extent

1 Folder, 1 Item, 1 page

Scope and Content

The collection is open for use.

This collection consists of one record: a blueprint showing the passenger accommodations for the steamship S.S. GEORGE W. ELDER. The drawing was done on April 30, 1890 and depicts the main deck. According to the accessioning librarian's notes, "cabin plans for steamships of this era are very rare." The document predates by nine years the ship's most famous voyage, the Harriman Alaska Expedition.

History

S.S. GEORGE ELDER (1874; steamship). The S.S. GEORGE W. ELDER was built by Roach & Sons in Chester, Pennsylvania for the Oregon S.S. Co. in 1874. The ship was once chartered by the Pacific Mail S.S. Co. The GEORGE W. ELDER is probably best known as the ship that railway magnate Edward H. Harriman lavishly refitted for his famed expedition (on behalf of the U.S. Biological Survey) along the Alaskan coast in 1899. Harriman and his crew sailed through the Inside Passage, the Gulf of Alaska, the Aleutian Archipelago, north through the Bering Sea and Strait, to Nome. Crowds cheered the ship when it departed from Seattle on May 31, 1899, and the voyage was front-page news across the world. Naturalists John Muir and John Burroughs, and some of the nation's leading scientists were recruited for the voyage. The Harriman Alaska Expedition enriched the world's knowledge of the region and its environment, describing new genera and species, recording new fossil species and surveying new parts of the Alaskan territory.

(Taken largely from "Harriman Expedition Retraced: A Century of Change," http://www.pbs.org/harriman/)

Provenance

Gift from Edward Nylund, January 25, 1955.

Language

English

Publication Citation

GEORGE W. ELDER passenger accommodations blueprint. San Fancisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Associated Materials/ Related Collections

GEORGE W. ELDER (1874; steamship), freight contract, 1877. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR 427, HDC 0508)

Reference Terms

GEORGE ELDER (1874; steamship) (Local) Harriman Alaska Expedition (1899) (LOOC) Steamboats (LOOC)

Index terms

Architectural drawings—Marine (TGM/LOOC) Blueprints (TGM/LOOC) Naval architecture drawings (TGM/LOOC)

Cataloguer:

Marjorie Bryer, August 2007.